Threat of Closure of M IMS

3672. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister ofHEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported threat of closure of Maharashtra University of Health Sciences as a result of transferring the powers to conduct Common Entrance Test (CET) from MUHS to Director of Medical Education and Research (DMER);

(b) if so, the details of the problem faced by the MUHS;

(c) the details of the action plan proposed for effective and efficient working of the MUHS; and

(d) the details of action taken/proposed on the pending proposals of the MUHS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) As per information received from the Government of Maharashtra, the Director of Medical Education and Research, Mumbai, has been appointed the competent authority for conducting the Common Entrance Test (CET) because the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik is facing the problem of inadequate manpower sufficient infrastructure for the same. The Government of Maharashtra has provided Rs. 10.20 Crores to Maharashtra University of Health Sciences during the last three years and a provision of Rs. 3.18 Crores has been made in the current year's Budget Estimates. The University has also been allotted land for construction of building.

District Mental Health Programme

3673. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister ofHEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a District Mental Health Programme is under operation since 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have proposed to increase the number of districts as well as State under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The District Mental Health Programme under the National Mental Health Programme launched in 1996-97 on